

## **Economic Intimate Partner Violence and Women Socio-Demographic Factors in Maroua**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Economic Intimate Partner Violence (EIPV) is a form of partner financial abuse, work sabotage or economic bias that constitute a source of concerns in almost every society though still little-analysed as a peculiar abuse in some socio-african context. This work thus scrutinises EIPV as a specific form of violence with a view to shedding light on the specific factors that affect its occurrence from the victims' characteristics. To achieve this, the explanatory sequential mixed method was used through a multi-step sampling for quantitative data collection and the snowball sampling for qualitative data collection. The latter permit to mobilise 300 questionnaires and 20 interviews that were analysed using the Chi-Square test and the content analyses method. The results shows that socio-demographic factors namely age, level of education, marriage settlement, income and profession have very strong and strong correlation with EIPV. All in all, the older a woman is, the more educated she is or the higher her monthly income is or even the more is her profession prestigious or well paid, the less she is likely to endure Economic Partner Assaults.

**Key words:** Demographic Factors, Economic, Intimate partner, Violence.

### **Background**

Defined as a form of partner assault characterised by one partner systemic control over the ability of the other to acquire, use and maintain economic resources, Economic Intimate Partner Violence (EIPV) is a pervasive and global scourge that mostly affects women. As IPV in general, EIPV also affects individuals irrespective of their social and cultural background with important consequences. In other words, it is a form of structural violence affecting individuals by limiting their access to resources and opportunities. This form of Abuse, which is generally intertwined with other forms of partner Abuse, also represents a peculiar form of violence with female victim

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in the majority which have obvious statistics worldwide (Chinelo et al., 2023). In the United States, statistics has revealed that one out of six women has faced economic abuse in a current or former relationship and 95% of women reporting having experienced domestic abuse also reported economic assaults (UK statistics on Economic abuse, 2020).

From the African context, it appears that economic IPV remains mostly mentioned in studies with correlations with other forms of abuse with very few, or almost no specific analysis of the latter at the regional level, because of the historical tendency of including it in the psychological form of violence. Although some studies have noticed the absence of effective regional context measurement scales about the phenomenon in some regions such as the sub-saharan Africa (Chinelo et al., 2023), there is nevertheless a handful of studies that accurately mentioned higher prevalence of EIPV in various countries in that same region. Reported statistics point to countries such as Kenya, Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire with 92.8% (Sang and Sang, 2014), 64.2% (Nduka, 2023) and 32.6% respectively (Falb, 2018).

The prevalence of the phenomenon appears from there divergent and specific to each context. In the South Africa's context, it has even been demonstrated that statistical variations of EIPV prevalence is not limited to countries as a whole, but can also be visible among different groups of populations in the same country. For example, in an urban area of a country statistics depicts 43.7% meanwhile it is between 14.3-16.1% for a rural area of the same country. (Ranganathan et al., 2019).

In this logic, Economic Intimate Partner Abuse thus appears as an obstacle to women empowerment, which is a necessity in the contemporary society characterised by a shrinking labour force (Neranjala Sumathipala and Kumudika Boyagoda, 2024). In Cameroon, IPV is a prevalent issue that unseemly impacts women victims who face social and economic challenges even though there is no significant analysis on the economic form of the scourge. This study aims to anatomise the interdependency between economic violence and some socio-demographic factors in Maroua, delineating a complex landscape that requires in-depth study in an ongoing development context.

## **Literature Review**

Numerous previous research have scrutinised different angles of the issue. This goes from the perpetrators characteristics to the detrimental effects crossing by the prevalence, the measurement scale, and the responses to the scourge with an emphasis on context diversity. Among the recent, there is Chinelo et al. (2023) research on measurement scales, prevalence and responses to EIPV in the sub-Saharan Africa. The Authors from a comprehensive desk-based review got three main findings. This includes the creation, revision and adoption of several related befitting measurement scales with some differences at the inclusion level (more or less inclusive), the change in the prevalence rate of EIPV according to the socio-contexts in which it enfolded, and the establishment of Economic abuse as form of IPV with least legal frame definition and most often not mentioned in national actions plans against gender-based violence (Chinelo, 2023). This last result has been argued in a wider context through a qualitative meta synthesis analyses based on Bacchian's approach. The latter instead raised the existence of various interventions on the issue of IPV including Economic Abuse even if not specific, worldwide. However, this was in order to show the necessity to reorient interventions against economic assaults by making the perpetrator afford the responsibility of their actions.

Moreover, the impact of the EIPV is also largely scrutinised. Indeed, a review of literature analysis of 14 data based including both convenience and population-based sample, found significant associations between economic abuse and a range of outcomes, such as mental and physical health, financial impacts, parent-child interactions and quality of life with accuracy among two impacts thereby mental health and financial issues (Laurra and Yafan, 2022). These results also corroborate Stylianou's work (2018), which in addition to mental and physical health effects, identified other effects on victims especially economic dependency on the predators and inability to obtain and maintain a job. From these analyses, EIPV appears as a constant scourge with undeniable negative impact on both the victims and the society advancement, as the phenomenon generally leads to the diminution of victim's engagement into economic activities and labour force.

Despite the numerous and various extant analyses on Intimate Partner Abuse, it can be noted that not many tackled the economic form of violence perpetrated against an intimate partner and the few that actually involved in, almost none of them spotlighted the influencing factors from the

angle of socio-demographic characteristics of victims in the Cameroon context. This paper therefore thoroughly highlights the correlation between this scourge spurring poverty, inequality, and social exclusion, and some socio-demographic factors like age, education level, profession, religion, marriage settlement and income as key determinants of vulnerability to economic violence. All the more so as there is hardly any literature on the subject regarding the specific relationship between economic violence and socio-demographic factors in the context of Maroua. Consequently, analysing the nuances of how economic violence manifests within different socio-demographic factors that induce its occurrence, is crucial to develop targeted responses to mitigate its impact in the Maroua social context.

### **Description of the Target Population**

The area where the present study has been conducted is Maroua which is the capital city of the Far North region of Cameroon. More specifically, it covered the Diamaré division, located at the confluence of two Mayo Rivers, the Kaliao and the Tsanaga. The study area is therefore geographically situated at latitude 10°35' North and longitude 14°18' East. The choice of this zone takes into account several very important scientific scopes. Firstly, as noted above, the paucity of research on the issue in this area. Secondly, its cosmopolitan nature, for virtually every ethnic group in the far north is found there, makes it the appropriate area to have a global visualization of the issue. Finally, the existence of all social categories (young, middle and old ages, and connubial relationships...) or classes (the well-heeled, middle and proletarian classes).

### **Methodology**

Violence in general and economic violence in particular, is a taboo subject that requires a methodology capable of triangulating findings from different sources, thereby enhancing the validity and reliability of the research. To this end, the explanatory sequential mixed method was the methodology applied to the research, as it combines both qualitative and quantitative methods to provide a circumstantial understanding of EIPV. This methodological approach involves collecting and analyzing both types of data in a sequential manner, with one method informing the other.

The explanatory sequential mixed method begins with the collection and analysis of quantitative data, followed by the collection and analysis of qualitative data to further explain or elaborate on

the quantitative findings. This sequential process allows researchers to first establish relationships between variables through quantitative analysis and then delve deeper into the underlying reasons or mechanisms through qualitative analysis.

In this sociological paper, is particularly useful in studying such a complex social phenomenon, which is violence against Intimate Partners that cannot be fully understood through quantitative data alone. By integrating qualitative data, this research work seeks to capture the nuances, meanings, and contexts that quantitative data may not fully capture, thereby bringing a more holistic understanding of the issue of EIPV by combining the strengths of both qualitative and quantitative approaches. This is definitely the one able to offer an adaptable research framework that has enabled to produce more reliable study findings and offers insights into the research phenomenon from several angles (CRESSWELL, 2014).

### **Data Collection Method**

Data collection consists in conducting surveys and interviews with individuals selected from the sampled population. The first, which is a survey, is conducted on a sample of 300 respondents to capture information on economic violence experience in relationship to some socio-demographic characteristics. The latter referred to as semi-structured interviews are applied to provide a qualitative dimension to the study, allowing holistic insights into the lived experiences of economic violence.

In other words, following the explanatory sequential mixed method procedure, data collection was organised into two different phases. At the onset, quantitative data were collected from about 300 women in the main neighbourhoods of the three subdivisions constituting the Diamaré division. This was possible using a questionnaire, which principally targeted households with married women or women living with an intimate partner.

This phase gave way to qualitative data collection in order to complete the quantitative data through interviews of about 20 women purposefully selected. Parameters associated with the socio-demographic factors selected for this work were respected in the selection of women to be interviewed. In other words, we made sure we interviewed women from all religious creeds, ages, marriage settlement, professions and income earners. This allowed us to conduct one-to-one interviews in order to gain an all-embracing knowledge of the EIPV phenomenon.

## **Sampling method**

Regarding the sampling technique, this research proceeded through a multi-step sampling as quantitative sampling technique, meanwhile the snowball sampling was utilised for the qualitative site. This with a view to select participants for this study in a systematic and unbiased manner, ensuring that the sample is representative of the survey population.

The multi-step sampling involves the stratified random systematic sampling approach. Firstly, the stratified sampling served to determine the number of households per subdivision. Since data on the number of households was not available, its determination hailed from the total population of each subdivision in this work. In other words, the population of each subdivision has been divided by the average size of the Far North household, 6.3, (NIS, 2016) to obtain the number of Households per subdivision. Then the number of questionnaires administered in each of the three subdivisions in Maroua was in relation to households and specific characteristics or criteria such as age, level of education, profession, religion, income etc. That is, the total households of each sub-division have been divided by the total households of the three Maroua sub-divisions, and then multiplied by the sample size which was 300.

Secondly, the random sampling was used to select the neighbourhood in each subdivision. The process consisted in writing the names of the different neighbourhood on a paper sheet, then putting them in a basket and choosing one after the other until the number was reached. The action was repeated several times for the three subdivisions.

Thirdly, a systematic sampling was used to select the households in each neighbourhood. In this regard, the interval between households was 5, meaning that after the first house considered as the number 1, the five subsequent ones were left before the next house to be investigated. We then had the following intervals: 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26, 31, 36, etc.

At the level of qualitative sampling method, the snowball sampling was used. The snowball sampling also known as « chain referral » or « networking sampling » consists in gathering information from a small number of participants who meet the criteria for the study. These participants are then asked to refer other individuals who also meet the criteria, creating a "snowball effect" as the sample size grows.

In this logic, this technique based on social network, has made it possible to identify one person enduring economic partner's assaults that, after being interviewed, used her social contacts to refer the researcher, to another person also affected by EIPV or who could potentially participate or contribute in the study. This process was repeated until the theoretical saturation rate was reached.

### **Data Analysis Method**

Data analysis has been carried out in two stages namely quantitative and qualitative. The first carried out through surveys and analysis using statistical software (e.g., SPSS) to generate descriptive statistics and inferential statistics, such as chi-square tests, with view to identify patterns and correlations between socio-demographic factors and Economic Intimate Partner Violence indicators.

Through this SPSS software, we proceeded to a three-step analysis. The first step is the coding of the data, which is translated hereby the attribution of numbers to each question on the questionnaire as well as the attribution of numerical codes corresponding to the modalities of the answers. This first phase was followed by the second, which consisted in actually inserting collected data into the software table. Finally, a univariate and bivariate analysis completed this phase. This was done through a simple sort and a cross sort respectively. Following this process, we were able to produce differential statistical tables and percentages using difference tests. This analysis uses determinants commonly referred to as explanatory variables that enabled us to highlight the cause-and-effect relationships of IPV in the city of Maroua.

As for the second, discourse or content analysis, known as an interpretive effort that oscillates between the rigour of objectivity and the fruitfulness of subjectivity (Wallin, 2007) is used as a tool for qualitative data analysis. This method is chosen in order to ensure that information from the semi-structured interview is carefully scrutinised, as it appears to be relevant to process complex information with a certain depth of meaning.

The process thus consists in three steps, including the transcription, categorisation and interpretation of the field data. This method makes the analysis of the discourse of the Maroua women on EIPV phenomenon possible.

### EIPV Prevalence and Women Socio-Demographic Factors

The frequency (every day, every week, every month and occasionally) of abandonment or work stoppage or income generating activity under duress is the measurement tool used for this type of IPV. That is estimated in terms of the frequency women are forced by their partner to leave or stop a job or an income generating activity. Data obtained are analysed in nexus to some socio-demographic factors, videlicet, age, level of education, marriage settlement, profession, revenue and religion of the interviewees.

Table 1: Economic IPV frequency and women's age

AGES (Years)	forced by the husband to stop an income generating activity			Total
	Once	Many times/more than once	Never	
<18	5	2	1	8
	20.0%	3.3%	0.5%	2.7%
18-28	4	19	54	77
	16.0%	31.1%	25.2%	25.7%
29-39	10	24	96	130
	40.0%	39.3%	44.9%	43.3%
40-50	5	12	51	68
	20.0%	19.7%	23.8%	22.7%
51-61	1	3	11	15
	4.0%	4.9%	5.1%	5.0%
> 61	0	1	1	2
	0.0%	1.6%	0.5%	0.7%
Total	25	61	214	300
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

(Echo, fieldwork, August 2022)

Factual occurrences from the above table 1 show that 87.5% of women under 18 years, 29.8% of 18-28 year, 26.1% of 29-39 years, 25.0% of 40-50 years, 26.6% of 51-61 years and 50.0% of women above 61 have already been forced by their intimate partner to stop an income generating activity.

Among the under 18 years old, those that have experienced it 'more than once' are lesser than the 'once' experiences. These are 25% and 62.5% apiece. A different tendency is observed among all the remaining age groups which are 18-28 years, 29-39 years, 40-50 years, 41-51 and the above 61 years. For the latter, the highest rates belong to the 'many times' experiences and the lower rates to the 'once' occurrences. Statistics displayed in this vein 24.6%, 18.5%, 17.6%, 20% and 50% for 'more than once' occurrence and 5.2%, 7.6%, 7.4%, 6.6%, for the 'once' experience. Young and middle age women are thus, more prone to economic IPV than the older ones as it is significant among them both at 'once' and 'many times'.

This can logically mean that, at the early stages of the marriage men do not want their wives to practise any income generating activities, but as time goes by and things getting tougher, they reconsider the question. Moreover, there is a very significant relationship between economic abuse and women’s age (Chi-Square value = 35.844a Degree of Freedom =10, Asymp sig = 0,000). This means that in an intimate relationship, the older a woman is, the less she faces economic abuse from her intimate partner. Subsequently, early women marriages are risks factors for economic abuse.

Table 2: Economic IPV Frequency and Women’s Level of Education

Level of education	forced by the husband to stop an income generating activity/job			Total
	Once	Many times/more than once	Never	
Uneducated	4	8	14	26
	14.8%	12.1%	6.8%	8.7%
Primary	4	11	23	38
	14.8%	16.7%	11.1%	12.7%
1 <sup>st</sup> cycle secondary education	3	11	28	42
	11.1%	16.7%	13.5%	14.0%
2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle secondary education	4	22	47	73
	14.8%	33.3%	22.7%	24.3%
Bachelor’s degree	12	10	53	76
	44.4%	15.2%	26.1%	25.3%
Master’s	0	4	37	41
	0.0%	6.1%	17.9%	13.7%
PhD	0	0	4	4
	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	1.3%
Total	27	66	207	300
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

(Echo, fieldwork, August 2022)

From the table 2, it clearly stands out that economic IPV has been experienced at least once or more by 31.0% of Maroua respondents. The most affected by it are women with 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle secondary education level followed by 1<sup>st</sup> cycle secondary education level, women with primary level, bachelor’s degree holders and the uneducated. Data helping to voucher that observation indicate that among the respondents having put up with economic IPV ‘*more than once*’, 33.3% are for the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle secondary education level, 16.7% for 1<sup>st</sup> cycle secondary education level and primary level respectively; 15.2% for bachelor’s degree holders and 12.1% for the uneducated. These groups, as it can be seen, are mostly made up of uneducated, lower educated women and intermediate level women. Still at this level of frequency economic IPV is either not quite their lot or is purely and simply non-existent for highly educated women. This explains the 6.1% for Master’s holders and 0.0% for PHD holders.

Just like ‘*more than once*’ experience, women claiming to have endured economic IPV ‘*just once*’ are for the essential uneducated, lower educated and intermediate level. None of the highly educated women said to have experienced it just once. The statistics in this respect display 44.4% for Bachelor’s degree, 14.8% for primary, 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle secondary education and uneducated respectively and 11.1% for 1<sup>st</sup> cycle secondary education. This explicitly highlights that the least regularly affected are highly educated.

There is indeed a very strong relationship between, economic abuse occurrence and women’s level of education (Chi-Square value = 25.839<sup>a</sup> Degree of Freedom =12, Asymp sig = 0.011). This infers that women’s level of education determines the frequency of economic partner assaults against them, as the higher is the level of education of a woman, the less she is subjected to economic IPV.

Table 3: Economic Violence Frequency and Women’s Marriage Settlement

Marriage settlement	forced by the husband to stop an income generating activity/job			Total
	Once	Many times/more than one	Never	
Polygamy	10	32	68	110
	40.0%	52.5%	31.8%	36.7%
Monogamy	15	29	146	190
	60.0%	47.5%	68.2%	63.3%
<b>Total</b>	25	61	214	300
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

(Echo, fieldwork, August 2022)

A close look at the figures from the table clearly indicates that women living in polygamous homes are more battered than those from monogamous homes are. In fact, 23.1% of women having ever endured Economic IPV are from monogamy while 38.2% are from polygamy.

To itemise observations, detailed statistics show 9.1% once and 29.1% more than once for polygamy, and 7.8% once and 15.3% more than once for monogamy.

From the afore-mentioned data analysis, it is then a truism to conclude that polygamy is a risk factor for the occurrence of this type of IPV. Besides, the above observations indicate a significant relationship between the frequency of economic abuse and the women’s marriage settlement (Chi-Square value = 8.875<sup>a</sup> Degree of Freedom =2, Asymp sig = 0.012). Consequently, the more a woman engaged in a polygamous marriage, the more she is likely to endure Economic IPV.

Table 4: Economic IPV Frequency and Women’s Profession

Profession	forced by the husband to stop an income generating activity/job			Total
	Once	Many times/more than once	Never	
Students	1	3	15	19
	3.3%	4.6%	7.3%	6.3%
Housewives	7	25	36	68
	23.3%	38.5%	17.6%	22.7%
Small businesses	8	21	65	94
	26.7%	32.3%	31.7%	31.3%
Farmers	3	1	11	15
	10.0%	1.5%	5.4%	5.0%
Teachers	4	2	14	20
	13.3%	3.1%	6.8%	6.7%
Doctors	3	6	11	20
	10.0%	9.2%	5.4%	6.7%
Ancillary staff	0	2	11	13
	0.0%	3.1%	5.4%	4.3%
Military personnel	3	4	12	19
	10.0%	6.2%	5.9%	6.3%
Humanitarian workers	1	1	12	14
	3.3%	1.5%	5.9%	4.7%
Senior managers	0	0	18	18
	0.0%	0.0%	8.8%	6.0%
Total	30	65	205	300
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

(Echo, fieldwork, August 2022)

From this table (4), it can be observed that amid respondents having ever been victims of this form of IPV, high rates are found among housewives and small businesswomen who have faced it ‘*many times*’ or ‘*more than once*’. That is 38.5% and 32.3% respectively. Other professions such as, students, farmers, teachers, doctors, ancillary staff, military personnel, humanitarian workers and senior managers have lesser rates, as figures display 4.6%, 1.5%, 3.1%, 9.2%, 3.1%, 6.2% and 1.5% apiece for ‘*more than once*’ occurrence.

Just like with ‘*more than once*’ occurrence, housewives and small businesswomen are the most touched by the phenomenon on the basis of at least ‘*once*’ occurrence. In this respect, 23.3% and 26.7% of them respectively, claimed to have been forced by the husband to stop an income generating activity at least once in their life. Apart from ancillary staff and senior managers who said they had never had such an issue with their intimate partner ‘*just once*’, the rest of professions, that is, students (3.3%), farmers (10.0%), teachers (13.3%), doctors ((10.0%), military personnel (10.0%) and humanitarian workers (3.3%) claimed to have endured it at least once.

This leads to the conclusion that women who already have less absorbing jobs (small businesses and housewives) are more susceptible to face Economic IPV. To that regard the frequency of economic IPV is determined by women’s profession, as the Chi-square shows a strong relationship between the two variables (Chi-Square value = 32.029<sup>a</sup> Degree of Freedom =18, Asymp sig = 0.022).

Table 5: Economic IPV Frequency and Women’s Income

Monthly income	Forced by the husband to stop an income generating activity/job			Total
	Once	Many times/More than once	Never	
<30000	8	31	60	99
	28.6%	49.2%	28.7%	33.0%
30000- 60000	7	15	35	57
	25.0%	23.8%	16.7%	19.0%
61000- 91000	0	3	20	23
	0.0%	4.8%	9.6%	7.7%
92000- 122000	2	5	21	28
	7.1%	7.9%	10.0%	9.3%
123000- 153000	4	5	19	28
	14.3%	7.9%	9.1%	9.3%
154000-184000	1	0	9	10
	3.6%	0.0%	4.3%	3.3%
185000-215000	3	0	8	11
	10.7%	0.0%	3.8%	3.7%
216000-246000	3	3	10	16
	10.7%	4.8%	4.8%	5.3%
247000-277000	0	1	3	4
	0.0%	1.6%	1.4%	1.3%
278000-308000	0	0	16	16
	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	5.3%
> 308000	0	0	8	8
	0.0%	0.0%	3.8%	2.7%
Total	25	61	214	300
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

(Echo, fieldwork, August 2022)

This table (5) shows that a lot of women, irrespective of their revenue, are forced to quit their income generating activities or jobs at least once or more. Lower income earners such as, women earning below CFA 30000 and those between 30000- 60000 frs are the most affected, as the occurrence is high at “*many times or more than once*”. Figures in line with this assertion point 49.2% and 23.8% respectively. After these two groups of lower income earners, come women earning between CFA 92000- 122000 and 123000- 153000 frs with 7.9% each. The rest of the categories either points 4.8% (for CFA 61000-91000 and 216000-246000 frs earners), or 1.6% (for CFA 247000-277000 frs earners). At this level, very high-income earners do not experience economic IPV.

Concerning income earners who have experienced this form of IPV just once, lower incomes and intermediate incomes are the more concerned by the phenomenon as they bear the highest rates. Statistics, in this respect, show 28.6%, 25.0% and 14.3% corresponding to under CFA 30000frs, 30000-60000frs, 123000-153000frs, and 10.7% for 185000-215000frs and 216000-246000 frs earners apiece. The remaining income groups are also affected, but with lesser rates. The groups concerned encompass the CFA 92000 to 122000 frs earners and above 154000-184000 frs earners with 7.1% and 3.6% respectively. It is worth indicating that there are not only high-income earners who do not experience economic IPV at this peculiar level, but also a bracket of lower income earners (CFA 61000- 91000 frs).

From this analysis, it is not a hasty conclusion to state that lower income earners are more affected than high or very high-income earners. Moreover, the frequency of economic IPV is determined by women’s income (Chi-Square value = 34.663<sup>a</sup> Degree of Freedom =20, Asymp sig = 0.022). In other words, the higher a woman’s income is, the less she experiences economic IPV, hereby justifying the strong relationship between the two variables.

Table 6: Economic IPV Frequency and Women’s Religion

Religion	Forced by the husband to stop an income generating activity			Total
	Once	Many times,	Never	
Animist	0	3	3	6
	0.0%	4.9%	1.4%	2.0%
Muslim	8	16	75	99
	32.0%	26.2%	35.0%	33.0%
Catholic	9	20	70	99
	36.0%	32.8%	32.7%	33.0%
Protestant	4	14	40	58
	16.0%	23.0%	18.7%	19.3%
Pentecostal	4	7	22	33
	16.0%	11.5%	10.3%	11.0%
Adventist	0	1	4	5
	0.0%	1.6%	1.9%	1.7%
<b>Total</b>	25	61	214	300
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

(Echo, fieldwork, August 2022)

From table 6, it clearly stands out that most often than not women from almost all religious groups are subdue to Economic IPV either ‘once’ or ‘more than once’ or ‘many times’.

Among those who have faced this form of abuse just once, Catholic and Muslim are the most represented with 36.0% and 32.0% apiece. Apart from them, it is observed that two other groups have gone through Economic coercion by pressure put on them to stop or abandon a job or an income generating activity. The two afore-mentioned groups are Protestant and Pentecostal with 16.0 % each. However, the latter, Protestant and Pentecostal are not concerned with this form at this at least *‘once’* occurrence.

For the *‘many times’* or *‘more than once’* experience, the same groups are still the most concerned but with different rates. That is 32.8% for Catholic and 26.2% for Muslim. For this frequency, Protestant and Pentecostal are not left out as they record considerable percentages, such as, 23.0% and 11.5% apiece. The least touched at this level are the Animist and Adventist groups.

The logical conclusion deriving from this analysis is that all religions are affected with the phenomenon with acuteness among Catholic and Muslim practicing. The latter are more frequently victims of economic abuse by their spouse or partner than the animist, Protestant, Pentecostal and Adventist. Nonetheless, frequency of Economic abuse is not determined by women’s religion. (Chi-Square value = 6.434 Degree of Freedom =10, Asymp sig = 0.778). This means that the religious group a woman attends, does not actually influence her frequency of being subjected to Economic IPV.

Table 7: Chi-Square Tests Synopsis

Associated variables		Chi-Square value	Degree of freedom	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Decision
Economic IPV frequency	Age	35844a	10	0.000	Very strong correlation
	L.education	25.839a	12	0.011	Very strong correlation
	M. settlement	8.875a	2	0.012	Very strong correlation
	Profession	32.029a	18	0.022	Strong correlation
	Income	34.663a	20	0.022	Strong correlation
	Religion	6.434a	10	0.778	No correlation

(Echo, fieldwork, August 2022)

From a close look at the above conspectus, it results that socio-demographic factors that have very strong correlation with Economic IPV are, namely age, level of education and marriage settlement with p-value ranging between [0.00- 0.01]. The two other factors correlating at this level are professions and income that have a strong relationship with economic IPV occurrence, as their p-value is 0.02 each. This statistically infers that there are enough reasons to reject the

null hypothesis and that the afore-mentioned socio-demographic factors actually influence the prevalence of Economic IPV. All in all, data analysis speaks volumes for they boldly show that, the older a woman is, the more educated she is or the higher her monthly income is or even the more is her profession prestigious or well paid, the less she is likely to endure Economic Partner Assaults.

### **Qualitative Data Presentation**

Interviews made with women sharing their individual life experience at the qualitative level point out that there is actually a relationship between resources and the control and exercise of Economic power in Intimate Partner relationships which is perpetuated by some factors influencing negatively the women victims.

From the latter then, EIPV seems to be a general burden for the majority of the respondents as almost all the interviewees confirmed having ever been either forced to stop, to start or to keep a job during their marital life. Women mentioned in majority that at the beginning, it was something already mentioned in conversations before getting married but as it was in form of jokes, the latter thought it could not be serious. The experiences show particularities at the level of regularity of the occurrence.

Concerning the regularities, Economic assaults happen less frequently in some cases and more frequently for others. For the less frequent, EIPV is often occasional and happens once in a while. Victims here said not to be able to clearly indicate the frequency but could just say that this can be one or two times in a while for some interviewees and instead between two or three times in a year for others.

As far as the more frequent is concerned, the interviewees revealed a daily and weekly frequency for abusive reactions. In this case, victims are always frightened, diminished and clearly prevented from even thinking of searching a job or they do not want their marital home to be jeopardised. For many of the victims, marriage is sacral and must be preserved at all cost so as not to be socially stigmatised by family members. As noted by NVONDO, 2011 the traditional gendered expectations regarding the management of finances in marriage, as stated by the feminist perspective. Marriage law in many countries including Cameroon recognises men as being the chief of the family who has the right to ask to their spouse to stop a job.

In this logic, victims claim that, for them, not working appears not very important as this does not meet their husband's approval. Some of the victims even mention that the phenomenon of economic abuse is "normal in their context", as they explained that it is even so rare for a woman to complain about it publicly.

From the above analysis, being less frequent or more frequent, EIPV generally stems from partners preconceptions about women work impact on her marital life and the need for maintaining a sense of masculine domination. The given explanation can be sustained with the following affirmation of one of the interviewees, there was this "tendency of discouraging me from having or maintaining a job", from their husband and there were always "many negative effects of a woman's job on the family well-being" raised to convince the latter. From there, EIPV manifest in the form of strategies of the partner to forbid the other to access or to keep financial resources as described by Blood and Wolfe (1960) as a source of power in a relationship. This tendency has a natural implication which is maintaining a certain domination on the other partner as the latter remains financially dependent. These ways of thinking or proceedings hail from some cultural factors, norms and practices still pregnant with patriarchal values and reinforce gender stereotypes. As highlighted by Duvvury et al. (2013), these norms perpetuate the belief that women's primary role is in the domestic sphere, leading to their exclusion from the formal economy and limiting their economic opportunities. This, in turn, reinforces women's economic dependence on men and perpetuates cycles of poverty, inequality and violence.

### **Relational Corollaries of EIPV**

The consequences of economic violence against women in Africa are profound and far-reaching. Women who experience EIPV are more likely to be trapped in cycles of poverty and financial insecurity, as they are unable to keep their job, access the resources and opportunities needed to improve their economic well-being (Johnson et al, 2022). Since it involves the control or manipulation of a victim's financial resources through restricting access to money, sabotaging employment opportunities, or coercing the victim into financial dependence, it influences both wage- earning and non-wage- earning women.

In the professional field for wage-earning women, a lot of women pointed out that Economic abuse is the cause of many losses. These include loss of employment and loss of profitability or failure to yield a high return at work.

In fact, facing this form of violence leads to professional disruption, which results in a drop in performance. This manifests itself in a lack of concentration, intermittent work or work under the control of a partner. The constant worries caused by Intimate Partner Violence prevent victims from concentrating on their work because their thoughts are focused on the situation they are experiencing home. This state of affairs leads to a reduction in working hours.

However, the reduction in time spent at work is also due to the time women sometimes take to be treated for physical effects, such as mental instability. This is what could suggest a respondent say which stated that *I could no longer work without crying and without being stressed about of what was happening at home* (Interview conducted on 12/09/2022 in Maroua I).

A company employee added that *at the beginning it seemed manageable because the frequency was reduced, but when the violence became more frequent, things got worse and I did nothing but cry and moan in the office. Everyone noticed it and I ended up losing my job* (Interview conducted on 16/09/2022 in Maroua II). This statement clearly shows that, Economic violence between intimate partners is also at the root of job loss. Adam's Research (2016) has clearly made it plain that women who experience economic abuse are more likely to face barriers to career advancement.

For non- wage-earning workers, vulnerability is a truism. For the latter, their income generating activities are often not spared. In many cases victims put up with men's refusal to see his partner work or set up an economic activity. One of the respondents backs this allegation up by talking about her experience in the following terms: *I became rare at the market because I could not go there all the time. In fact, I was restricted from going out for days or even weeks at a time, and I lost a lot of customers and goods that went to waste* (Interview conducted on 17/09/2022 in Maroua III). Economic Partner Assault is therefore a real obstacle to women's economic development and financial independence thereby putting them at risk of poverty (Smith, 2018). This definitely has long-term effects on women's physical and mental health, as well as their overall quality of life (Gupta et al., 2018).

EIPV, be it for wage-earning or non-wage-earning women, has as ultimate aim to ensure the control of power for abusers know fully well that, the lack of economic independence impact women's ability to leave abusive relationships, as they may be short of the financial resources to support themselves and their children independently (Jewkes et al., 2010). The urge is therefore to control the resources of the survivor in order to maintain her in a state of economic insecurity and to ensure a strong stranglehold (Johnson *et al* 2022).

### **Conclusion**

To sum up, Economic Intimate Partner Violence against women in Maroua constitute a social reality. The latter varied in their frequency according to socio-demographic factors like women's age, education level, profession, income and marriage settlement. The results accurately show the necessity of developing more consciousness of the EIPV prevalence and its negatives impacts on the victim's and that could affect economic societal wellbeing. Indeed, considering these factors, when adopting strategies to overcome this peculiar form of IPV, could be an added value in the fight against Intimate Partner Violence. In fact, women constitute the very large part of the Cameroon population and thus represent a significant mean of production that need to be appropriately used. However, if there are more and more forbidden from having or keeping their jobs or businesses, it will be difficult for the Maroua city and/or the country to achieve effective development.

More to that, the present study constitutes an improvement on the current knowledge as it provides a global panorama of the prevalence of the EIPV across the metropolitan town of Maroua, helping the identification of the most at risk group of women useful for future holistic monitoring thereby achieving the elimination of all forms of violence among women.

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