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Impact of Women's Land Ownership Patterns on Intimate Partner Violence in Tanzania



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Abstract

Strengthening women's ownership of and control over land is a significant development goal. "The study aimed at analysing the lonely, joint, and title deed land ownership by women on intimate partner violence (IPV) they experience in region population variability in the Tanzanian context. This quantitative explanatory study used ANOVA and multi-linear regression to analyse secondary data from 2015-16 and 2022 TDHS-MIS reports and population and women who own land alone, each having a census in 2022 and its estimation in 2015 based on the 2012 census. A study found that the percentage increase of women who own land jointly with their intimate partners and those whose names are on land title deeds leads to a significant decrease in intimate partner violence (IPV) against women. An increase in the percentage of women who own land alone and that of the regional population as years advance, each lead to a significant increase in IPV against women in the Tanzanian context. The result of this study demonstrates the relevance of promoting joint land ownership in title deeds for both partners as some of the interventions that would reduce intimate partner violence against women. It also proposes regulation to curb the increasing rates of intimate partner violence in the context of increased regional and national populations. Therefore, the study recommends that interventions encourage joint land ownership with the names of each partner appearing on the land title deed while also regulating the growth of regional and national populations.

Introduction

Women's equal rights to land without undue discrimination from society, laws, culture, and intimate partners are the key factors enabling women to use, enjoy, inherit, control, and own land. According to the United Nations (2006), gender-based violence is any act of violence that results in physical, sexual, or psychological (emotional) harm or suffering. Less than 20 per cent of women in the world own land, while efforts to have land ownership rights continue to expose them to IPV from their husbands or intimate partners in developing countries with masculine cultural backgrounds, such as Tanzania (United Nations, 2017; Boudreaux, 2018; Urassa, 2023).

The IPV against women is also due to the assumption that women are allowed to share land property rights with their husbands (USAID, 2023) while men are not given that opportunity. Furthermore, traditions, culture, and laws still deny women's right to inherit land on an equity basis. Furthermore, the violation tends to escalate when women use funds unfairly to own land alone when they perceive

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high risk in joint land ownership with their husbands or intimate partners (Urassa, 2023). There is a need to identify patterns of land ownership by women that can help eradicate strategic (*IPV*) against women.

From 2015 to 2022 TDHS-MIS, the prevalence of physical, sexual, or emotional violence against women aged 15 to 49 of current or most recent intimate partner (e.g., husband) decreased from 50% in 2015 to 39% in 2022 (Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children [MoHCDGEC] et al., 2022). Based on women's responses, the percentage of women who owned land jointly with an intimate partner decreased from 24.5 to 21.6; the percentage of women who owned land alone decreased from 8.1 per cent to 4.2 per cent; the percentage of women whose names appeared on the land title needs decreased from 7.7 to 3.7; and the population of Tanzania increased by 17.7 per cent from 48,971,558 in the year 2015 to 57,637,628 in the year 2022 (MoHCDGEC et al., 2022). It is then vital for land policymakers and regulators to understand how women's land ownership patterns (lonely, jointly, or title deed) affect IPV against women (USAID, 2023).

The evidence has shown that women's land rights reduce domestic violence and enable them to negotiate for safe sex and equally control economic resources (Ghezae, 2009; Boudreaux, 2018). Grabe1 et al. (2014) examined the association of land ownership and inequities and violence against 492 women using structural equation models and qualitative thematic analyses based on survey questionnaires in Tanzania and Nicaragua. They found significant links among women's ownership of land, relationship power, and receipt of physical and psychological violence in both countries and that women who own land enabled them to experience less violence. USAID worked with land officials, local communities, and women to inclusively document 100,000 customary land ownership documents and found that women felt ownership documents and land rights sensitisation were instrumental in helping them protect and improve their land and make decisions about it (USAID, 2023). These findings imply that improving customary land rights can help eradicate violations against women (Persha et al., 2022).

Using cross-sectional Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) data and a regressive model for Latin American countries, Gahramanov et al. (2020) examined the effect of property ownership by women on domestic violence. It found that a property owned alone by a woman rather than jointly with an intimate partner is associated with domestic violence against her. Similarly, Sano and Sedziaf (2017) examined Women's land ownership and intimate partner violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They found that women with no land ownership and independent ownership are both more likely to experience physical and sexual intimate partner violence than their counterparts in joint land ownership with someone else.

Urassa (2023) used purposive sampling, documentary review, interviews, and focus group discussions to explore the existing gender gaps in property rights in rural areas of Kyela district in Tanzania and the associated challenges in achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs). They found that sociocultural norms contradict the legal provisions to bridge gender gaps in property rights where sociocultural traditions do not offer equality in inheriting, controlling, and transferring land. However, women whose names appeared on the certificates of customary right of occupancy were involved in decision-making related to the distribution of family land. Studies reviewed examined the impact of women's land ownership on violence within a given cultural

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context. For instance, Tian (2023) examined why domestic violence against women persists in rural areas of China and found that culture is a significant contributor.

Madulu (2005) studied the linkages between population pressure and common property resources (jointly owned land) availability in Tanzania and found that increasing population diminishes common property resources while increasing land use conflicts and landless class in rural areas. The population of Tanzania increased from 44,928,923 based on the 2012 census to 61,741,120 based on the 2022 census, according to the National Bureau of Statistics, as reported by the Tanzania Ministry of Finance (2023).

Theoretical and Conceptual Framework

Social conflict theory is a Marxist-based social theory that argues that individuals and social class groups within society have differing amounts of material and nonmaterial resources and that the more powerful groups use their power to exploit groups with less power through brute force and economics (Marx & Engels, 1848). The neoclassical theory of land reform approaches as an integral part of economic development strategy However, other factors apart from economic growth in this study, intimate partner violence (IPV) against women, can be used as an indicator of the study to determine how different factors contribute to eradicating such violence, as shown in the conceptual framework in Figure 1.

Dependent Variables Women land ownership patterns Women who own land jointly with husband or interment partner Dependent variable Women who own land alone Intimate partner Women whose name are in land violence (IPV) title deed against women **Context of the Study** Region population in Tanzania The year TDHS was done

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

The multi-linear regression model was then used to analyse the relationships between independent variables and dependent variables. Significant beta indicated that the factor represented by the independent variable is a significant determinant that can be intervened in to minimise IPV against women.

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Methodology

This study takes an explanatory (causal) design since it sought to analyse the impact of women's land ownership patterns on intimate partner violence (IPV) against women in the Tanzanian population context by using a quantitative approach. It is based on secondary data, as percentage data, from 2015-16 TDHS and 2022 TDHS-MIS as reported for each of the 31 regions – 26 regions in Tanzania Mainland and five regions in Zanzibar. For 2015-2016 TDHS, the Woman's Questionnaire was used to collect information from all eligible 13,634 women aged 15-49, yielding a response rate of 13,266 women (97%). This was done during campaign tensions for the 2015 general elections with possible violence. For 2022 TDHS-MIS, 15,699 women aged 15-49 were targeted as eligible respondents, where 15,254 women (97%) responded. Furthermore, the population data is based on the 2012 and 2022 Census, where a population of 2015 was estimated by annual growth rate.

The study aimed at investigating how women's land ownership patterns affect intimate partner violence (IPV) against women in different regions of Tanzania. The study employed two data analysis methods using SPSS. First, an ANOVA test was used to determine the significant mean differences. Secondly, a multi-linear regression analysis was conducted to analyse the beta coefficients using the following model (equation 1):

 $V = \beta_0 + \beta_i J + \beta_a A + \beta_t T + \beta_p P + \beta_v Y + \varepsilon 1$

Where: V Percentage of women who experienced intimate partner violence (IPV)

 β_0 Constant

Ι Percentage of women owning land jointly with their intimate partner

 β_i Coefficient for I

Α Percentage of women owning land alone with their intimate partner

 β_a Coefficient for A

Т Percentage of women whose names appear on the land title deed

 β_t Coefficient for T

Р Percentage of region population to population of Tanzania

Coefficient for P

Y the year in which TDHS was conducted

 β_{ν} Coefficient for Y

Error term

The independent variable in the regression model where the percentage of women's land-owning patterns (jointly, alone, and title deed), the percentage of region population to population of Tanzania, and the year in which TDHS was done were taken as the independent variables. In contrast, the percentage of intimate partner violence (IPV) against women was taken as a dependent variable, which included emotional, physical, and sexual violence dimensions recommended (United Nations, 2006).

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Results and Discussion

After conducting the ANOVA test, it was revealed that the IPV against women and women who own land jointly each has a significant difference of means between the 2022 and 2015-16 TDHS-MIS (See Figure Table 1). This result shows that each decreased significant IPV against women and women who own land jointly, and each showed a significant decrease in the percentage of occurrence from the 2015-16 to 2022 TDHS-MIS because the significance levels for each are below 0.05. The women who owned land alone, the women named on the land title deed, and the average population of the region did not show a significant decline in the percentage of occurrence because the significance levels for each were below 0.05.

Table 1: ANOVA findings on difference of means

Variable	Mean (St.Dev)	Mean (St.Dev)	2022 Mean (St.Dev) N=31	(2022-2015) Mean difference		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
*Percentage of women	39.07		34.53 (14.18)	-1.09	Between Groups	1280.83	1	1280.83	4.68	0.034
who experienced	(17.03)				Within Groups	16408.52	60	273.48		
violence					Total	17689.35	61			
		9.28 (9.59)	4.38 (3.12)	-4.90	Between Groups	372.65	1	372.65	7.33	.009
	6.83 (7.49)				Within Groups	3049.68	60	50.83		
land jointly					Total	3422.33	61			
Percentage of		24.02 (14.32)	21.25 (13.27)	-2.77	Between Groups	119.62	1	119.62	.63	.431
					Within Groups	11442.43	60	190.71		
alone					Total	11562.05	61			
Percentage of women	7.87	8.80 (10.42)	6.94 (9.86)	-2.86	Between Groups	53.29	1	53.29	.52	.475
whose names are in land title deed					Within Groups	6176.35	60	102.94		
					Total	6229.64	61			
Percentage of regional population	3.23 (2.02)	3.23 (2.09)	3.22 (1.99)	-0.01	Between Groups	.00	1	.000	.00	.995
					Within Groups	250.08	60	4.17		
in Tanzania					Total	250.08	61			

These findings suggest that as the percentage of the regional population did not change significantly, the percentage of intimate IPV against women decreased. The percentage of women who own land jointly decreased, but the percentage of women who own land alone and the percentage of women named on land title deeds did not change significantly from 2015-16 to 2022 TDHS-MIS. The mean population of regions decreased but not significantly due to the introduction of three new regions, which lowered the mean population of regions. However, the overall population of Tanzania increased from 48,971,558 in 2015 to 57,637,628 in 2022, an increase of 17.7 per cent.

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The multi-linear regression model was ultimately employed to analyse how the increment of independent variables affects the dependent variable. This model effectively analyses the impact of women's land ownership patterns on IPV against women while considering regional population changes in the Tanzania context. The results of the analysis are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2: Regression findings about the impact of Women's land ownership on IPV

Donondont variables Intimate name		Std.	Std			Collinearity	
Dependent variable: Intimate partner violence (IPV) against women	Beta	Error	Beta	t	Sig.	Tolerance	VIF
Independent variables:							
(Constant)	-11.54	9.59		-1.20	.234		
Percentage of women who own land jointly	03	.21	02	17	.870	.851	1.18
*Percentage of women who own land alone	.42	.14	.34	3.10	.003	.585	1.71
 *Percentage of women named on land title deed 	64	.19	38	-3.27	.002	.522	1.97
4. Independent *Percentage of Tanzania population	4.84	.77	.58	6.25	.000	.819	1.22
5. *Year 2015-22	1.62	.47	.33	3.43	.001	.749	1.34

Summary:

- Adjusted R-Square = .577; Error of the Estimate = 11.08; F = 17.62, Std. and regression df = 5, Sig = .000;
- The determinant is significant (*) at 0.05 where p-value ≤ 0.05

The regression model in Table 2 was plausible since the Adjusted R-Square is .577%, implying that the variation of percentage of women's land ownership pattern and region population between 2015-6 and 2022 of TDHS explains about 57.7 per cent of intimate partner violence (IPV) against women. This value is above recommended (Hair et al., 2010). Also, the model did not suffer the problem of colinearity since the VIF for each independent variable was above 5, as recommended (Hair et al., 2010). The determined regression for estimating the percentage of women who experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) is as follows.

$$V = 11.4 + 0.42A - 0.64T + 4.84P + 1.62Y$$

Where: V Percentage of women who experienced intimate partner violence (IPV)

11.4 = Constant β_0

Α Percentage of women owning land alone with their intimate partner

0.42 = Coefficient for A β_a

Т Percentage of women whose name appear on the land title deed

 β_t -0.64 = Coefficient for T

Р Percentage of region population to population of Tanzania

4.8 = Coefficient for P

Y the year in which TDHS was conducted

1.62 = Coefficient for Y

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Note that variable J (Percentage of women owning land jointly with their intimate partner) has been eliminated because it does not have a significant impact on intimate partner violence (IPV). The regression analysis findings revealed that the percentage increase of women who own land jointly and the percentage increase of women named on land title deeds each decreases the intimate partner violence (IPV) against women in the Tanzanian context significantly. Alternatively, it was found that the percentage increase of women who own land alone, a percentage increase in region population, and the increase in years each significantly increases the region's intimate partner violence (IPV) against women in the Tanzanian context.

Discussion of the Findings

The objective of this study was to analyse the impact of ownership patterns (lonely, jointly, and title deed) on intimate partner violence (IPV) against women based on the region population in Tanzania context based on the 2015-16 and 2022 TDHS reports. The discussion of the findings is as follows:

Impact of women who own land jointly on intimate partner violence (IPV) against women

The findings that the percentage increase of women who own land jointly decreases the intimate partner violence (IPV) against women in the Tanzanian context significantly is in harmony with the ANOVA findings that there was a significant decrease in the percentage of women who experienced violence and women who own land jointly. The findings are further supported by the findings of the study done by Sano and Sedziaf (2017) in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which showed that women with joint land ownership with intimate partners experienced less violence from their intimate partners than those who owned the land alone. Hence, land policymakers, lawmakers, regulators, and denominations must design land ownership strategies and cultures that encourage trust and collaborative ownership between intimate partners rather than competitive dispositions.

Impact of women with name on land title deed on intimate partner violence (IPV) against women

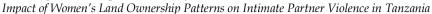
The findings show that the percentage increase of women named on land title deeds significantly decreases IPV against women in the Tanzanian context. Similarly, the findings by Urassa (2023) in Kyela, Tanzania, found that women whose names appeared on the certificate of customary right of occupancy were involved in decision-making related to the distribution of family land. Since joint land ownership has lower intimate partner violence (IPV) against women, it can then further be strengthened legally by land policies and laws that ensure the woman's name is also on the title deed.

Impact of women who own land alone on intimate partner violence (IPV) against women

The study further found that the percentage increase of women who own land alone significantly increases the region's intimate partner violence (IPV) against women in the Tanzanian context. Similarly, the study done by Gahramanov et al. (2020) in Latin American countries found that property owned alone by a woman rather than jointly with an intimate partner is associated with domestic violence against her. Also, Sano and Sedziaf (2017) examined Women's land ownership and intimate partner violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They found that women with no land ownership and independent ownership are both more likely to experience physical and sexual intimate partner violence than their counterparts in joint land ownership with someone else. Most of these conflicts are due to masculinity culture, beliefs, laws, and partner attitudes and actions that attempt to suppress women's rights to own alone. Hence, there is a need to enlighten interment

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partners about their rights to own land without exploiting the other partner and reforming such culture, beliefs, laws, attitudes, and actions.

Impact of regional population changes year increases on intimate partner violence (IPV) against women

The results of the study found that as years go on, increases in the percentage of the regional population lead to an increase in IPV against women. Hence, both the increase in years and the percentage of the regional population are associated with an increase in IPV against women. In this context, the ANOVA result revealed an insignificant decrease in the mean of region populations, most likely because three new regions were introduced. The finding differs from that of Madulu (2005), who found that increasing population diminishes common property resources while increasing land use conflicts and landless class in rural areas. This shows the need to reduce both the region's population and overall population to reduce IPV against women as the years go on.

Conclusion

After the review of the literature, it was found that different studies conducted about the impact of women's land ownership patterns on intimate partner violence (IPV) against women focused more on cultural context while paying no attention to the impact of changes in population as it has been carried out in this study. The findings show that an increasing percentage of women who own land jointly and those whose names are on the land title deed each lead to a significant decrease in the percentage of intimate partner violence (IPV) against women., it was found that increases in the percentage of women who own land alone and increases in population as several years advance, each leading to a significant increase in intimate partner violence (IPV) against women in the Tanzanian context. It was, therefore, concluded that patterns of women's land ownership and the increase in regional population have significant impacts on intimate partner violence (IPV) against women. Based on this finding, it is recommended to design land policies and interventions that encourage harmonious joint ownership of land between intimate partners, which ensures that the women are named on the land title deed, and to regulate the disparity and overgrowth of regional and national populations.

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APPENDIX I: DATA FOR POPULATION, WOMEN LAND OWNERSHIP PATTERNS AND WOMEN VIOLENCE IN TANZANIA.

Year	Region	Population		Women owned land jointly (%)	Women owned land alone (%)	Women named on title deed (%)	Women violence from husband or intimate partner (%)
2022	Dodoma	2,647,410	4.6	4.7	17.7	1.4	53.5
2022	Arusha	2,104,074	3.7	2.6	18.5	5.9	44.1
2022	Kilimanjaro	1,951,252	3.4	4.0	12.9	13.9	46.8
2022	Tanga	2,449,235	4.2	5.2	29.7	2.6	31.2
2022	Morogoro	2,730,058	4.7	4.9	19.0	8.1	40.9
2022	Pwani	1,325,852	2.3	1.8	15.6	1.2	31.8
2022	Dar es Salaam	5,401,814	9.4	2.2	5.9	37.7	30.8
2022	Lindi	1,025,800	1.8	12.9	20.8	0.0	17.8
2022	Mtwara	1,478,874	2.6	9.6	26.4	0.0	27.9
2022	Ruvuma	1,655,443	2.9	2.6	34.2	0.8	30.8
2022	Iringa	1,149,481	2.0	9.3	35.8	2.5	50.3
2022	Mbeya	2,204,543	3.8	2.7	27.7	3.7	25.4
2022	Singida	1,705,182	3.0	3.7	27.0	0.0	44.9
2022	Tabora	3,081,263	5.3	3.0	19.0	0.0	47.9
2022	Rukwa	1,270,049	2.2	4.7	32.1	7.1	17.2
2022	Kigoma	2,800,919	4.9	3.3	19.5	1.5	33.6
2022	Shinyanga	1,993,589	3.5	2.2	16.7	0.0	38.1
2022	Kagera	3,238,347	5.6	7.4	44.6	4.1	52.7
2022	Mwanza	3,826,573	6.6	2.4	10.0	3.1	47.3
2022	Mara	2,391,845	4.1	4.9	26.5	0.3	65.9
2022	Manyara	1,873,105	3.2	4.7	32.1	2.2	39.7
2022	Njombe	837,557	1.5	12.3	40.4	3.6	47.8
2022	Katavi	805,887	1.4	3.3	35.8	6.4	24.1

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2022	Simiyu	2,304,228	4.0	0.9	14.3	0.0	36.9
2022	Geita	2,434,800	4.2	3.3	23.0	0.9	41.5
2022	Songwe	1,278,850	2.2	6.0	48.3	0.4	30.7
2022	KaskaziniUnguja	232,480	0.4	0.6	0.5	23.3	8.7
2022	KusiniUnguja	138,589	0.2	6.2	1.5	31.7	22.1
2022	MjiniMagharibi	733,914	1.3	1.4	1.2	23.3	19.1
2022	Kaskazini Pemba	294,267	0.5	2.4	1.7	14.0	12.3
2022	Kusini Pemba	272,348	0.5	0.5	0.2	15.5	8.5

Source: Population from Tanzania Census, 2022 while the remaining from 2022 TDHS-MIS.

APPENDIX II: DATA FOR POPULATION, WOMEN LAND OWNERSHIP PATTERNS AND WOMEN VIOLENCE IN TANZANIA

			Population	,	Women owned land alone	Women named on title deed	Women violence from husband or intimate
Year	Region	Population	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	partner (%)
2015	Dodoma	2,217,856	4.5	9.9	46.5	1.2	49.7
2015	Arusha	1,839,531	3.8	3.9	22.1	6.6	44.5
2015	Kilimanjaro	1,728,522	3.5	4.4	14.9	11.1	34.5
2015	Tanga	2,186,757	4.5	4.0	12.8	1.5	25.3
2015	Morogoro	2,380,750	4.9	9.3	18.6	17.2	35.0
2015	Pwani	1,172,306	2.4	10.4	14.9	14.2	35.2
2015	Dar es Salaam	5,166,570	10.6	5.8	6.6	50.4	38.9
2015	Lindi	889,197	1.8	16.1	35.4	6.1	37.4
2015	Mtwara	1,318,374	2.7	17.8	29.2	9.8	32.8
2015	Ruvuma	1,467,362	3.0	9.0	48.3	4.8	43.6
2015	Iringa	1,064,740	2.2	9.3	18.2	13.2	38.1
	Mbeya (before						
2015	Songwe)	1,829,471	3.7	24.3	16.3	6.3	45.0
2015	Singida	1,469,469	3.0	8.0	35.9	1.7	43.7
2015	Tabora	2,501,796	5.1	5.6	34.1	3.6	70.5

1,882,141

1,061,272

206,343

122,736

673,398

220,153

201,662

3.8

2.2

0.4

0.3

1.4

0.4

0.4

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2015 Geita

2015 Songwe

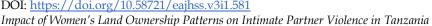
2015 KaskaziniUnguja

2015 Mjini Magharibi

2015 Kaskazini Pemba

2015 Kusini Pemba

2015 KusiniUnguja





2015 Rukwa 1,105,931 2.3 5.4 30.3 2.8 46.4 2015 Kigoma 2,372,471 4.8 33.2 2.5 4.8 60.6 5.8 3.8 78.0 2015 Shinyanga 1,723,675 3.5 32.8 2015 Kagera 2,597,559 5.3 9.5 47.9 5.2 66.9 2015 Mwanza 3,111,354 6.4 4.3 13.8 18.4 59.8 **2015** Mara 1,877,451 3.8 9.4 30.9 1.8 78.1 2015 Manyara 1,567,479 3.2 6.3 27.2 1.9 46.2 2015 Njombe 719,036 1.5 10.2 51.1 2.6 53.1 **2015** Katavi 622,121 1.3 3.7 29.8 2.3 49.7 **2015** Simiyu 1,674,075 3.4 6.0 29.3 0.8 61.8

4.2

54.0

4.6

12.2

5.8

1.6

2.1

9.0

0.7

2.9

7.0

10.3

26.5

26.5

62.6

45.0

12.8

22.0

17.7

8.0

9.2

20.3

28.4

4.5

3.9

3.8

2.0

1.7

Source: Population estimated from 2012 Tanzania Census while the remaining from TDHS-MIS (2015-16)

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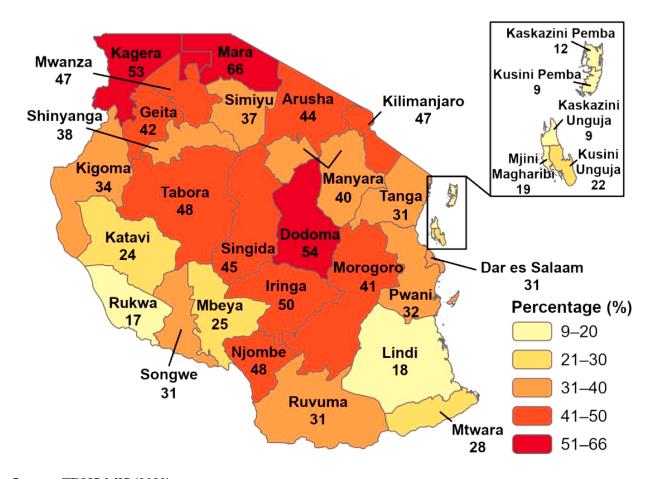
DOI: https://doi.org/10.58721/eajhss.v3i1.581

Impact of Women's Land Ownership Patterns on Intimate Partner Violence in Tanzania



APPENDIX III: INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE BY REGION

Among women age 15–49 who experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence committed by their husband or intimate partner



Source: TDHS-MIS (2022)