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Weather, Gender balance, and Intimate Partner Violence: Evidence from Zambia

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Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) has been a global issue for decades as a classic example of serious human rights violations. However, about half of women in Zambia still experience some form of violence in their lifetime. According to the United Nations, reducing and eradicating IPV has great significance for achieving the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

I conducted data analysis from various angles such as house, land, decision making, copper industry, and weather condition. The reason why I paid attention to the copper industry is that it is a major industry that has supported Zambia's economy for a long time. In addition, since the work most Zambians are engaged in is agriculture, I focused on weather conditions that are expected to have a greater impact on agriculture in recent years due to factors such as climate change. Data used for analysis are Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) and climate data from AreNA's (Advancing Research on Nutrition and Agriculture) DHS-GIS (Geographical Information System) database.

In this study, I used four types of IPV data (emotional variables, less severe violence, severe violence, sexual violence) experienced by women in the past 12 months prior to the survey as outcome variables. Also, I used own house/land jointly, woman earns more money than man, joint decision, living in Copperbelt, precipitation, temperature, and Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) as explanatory variables. In addition, age, region, religion, region, educational level, wealth index, etc. were used as control variables. I performed logistic regression analysis using these data.

Estimated results showed that joint decision-making by wife and husband/partner and increased precipitation when people were engaged in agriculture reduced the women's risk of experiencing IPV. On the other hand, rising temperatures increased the risk of IPV if women lived in the Copperbelt. In addition, in this study, there was no statistically significant effect of the resources held by wife and husband/partner (such as house, land, and money) on IPV, which were explained to affect the occurrence of IPV in the standard resource theory.

As revealed in this study, the cause of IPV is not just one, but is complicatedly intertwined with various factors. Therefore, in order to prevent or reduce the occurrence of IPV, the Zambian government should raise awareness of the importance of joint decision making and cooperate with international organizations and develop working environment that can adapt to climate change.